

# Kewaunee-built ship has link to history

When one thinks of shipyards in Northeastern Wisconsin, the first sites that come to mind are Sturgeon Bay, Marinette or Manitowoc.

But some people might remember Kewaunee. How could a small city of 3,000 support a shipyard? Well it did during World War II.

The ships turned out in Kewaunee certainly were nothing as large as the battleship USS Wisconsin. After all, the Kewaunee-built ships had to be small enough to transverse the canals that led to the oceans.

But one ship does stand out: the USS Pueblo. It was built by Kewaunee Shipbuilding and Engineering Corp.. This firm today operates as a subsidiary of the Marine Travel Lift Corp. At the height of World War II, 400 employees were involved in shipbuilding on this site.

The ship that eventually was named the Pueblo was launched on April 16, 1944, and served in the Philippines region during World War II. It was one of seven similar ships with a length of 176 feet, a beam of 32 feet and a displacement of 935 tons.

At the end of the war many ships were mothballed, sold, refitted or cut up for scrap. Others continued to be used by the U.S. Navy. The Pueblo was mothballed in 1959 in Oregon and later in California, but was recommissioned



*Throughout this year of Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial celebration, the Press-Gazette will publish a series of stories on local history. This feature, prepared with the assistance of the Brown County Historical Society, will appear on Mondays.*



and refitted as a auxiliary light cargo ship.

In 1967 it was refitted as an environmental research vessel. It was steaming off North Korea in 1968 under the command of Cmdr. Lloyd M. Buch-

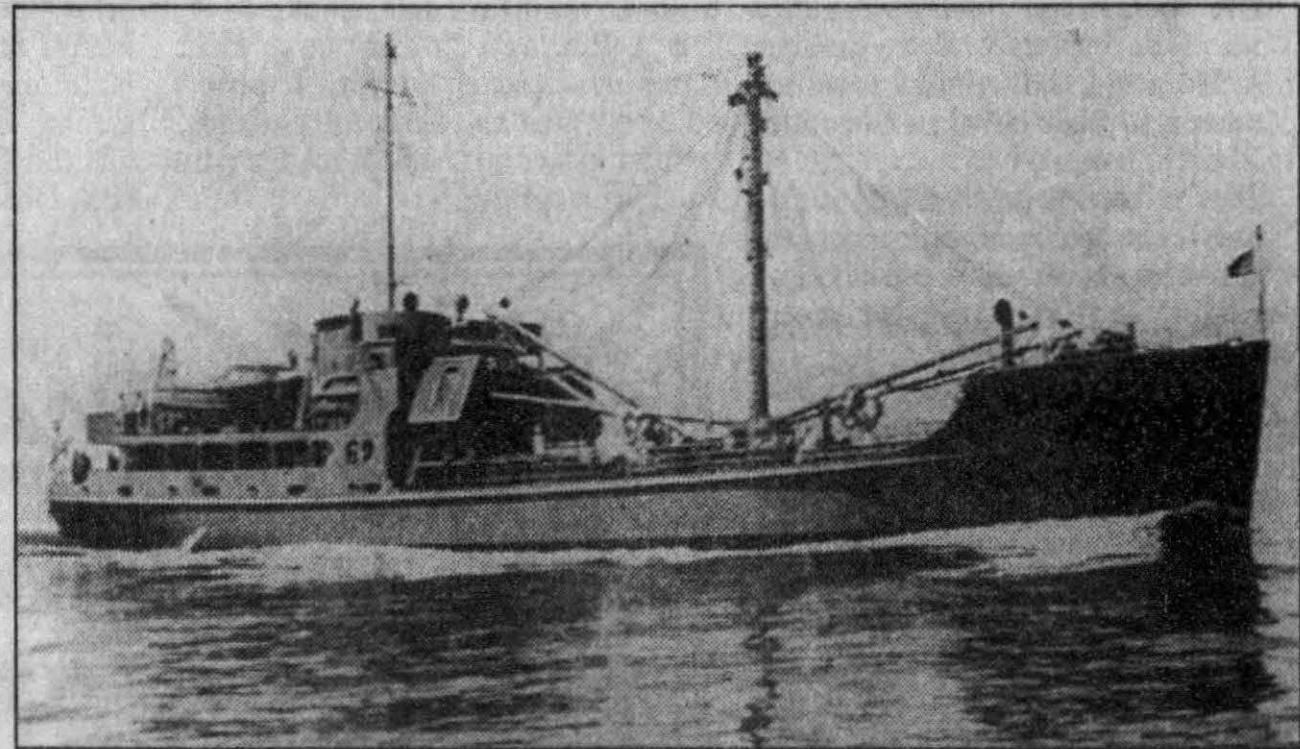


Photo courtesy of Kewaunee County Historical Society

**1968 incident:** The USS Pueblo was built by Kewaunee Shipbuilding and Engineering Corp. during World War. It became the center of an international incident when it was seized by the North Korean Navy in 1968. Its crew of 82 was held captive in North Korea for 11 months.

er with a crew of 82. The North Korean Navy intercepted the ship and interred the entire ship's crew for 11 months. North Korea viewed the Pueblo as a spy ship. This action resulted in newspaper headlines around the world.

Eventually, the crew was released. But for some reason, the Pueblo never was returned to the United States.

Newspapers of the day referred to it as the ship that went out into the cold. A model of this ship, along with other pertinent information, is displayed in the Kewaunee County Historical Museum on Courthouse Square in Kewaunee.

*(Submitted by Gerald Abitz, Kewaunee Historical Society)*